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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 3, 2011

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(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Alumnus Brings Opera to Broadway Debut**

As a former student in the School of Music, one alumnus never expected he would perform on Broadway and work opposite 1980's "Cagney and Lacey" star, Tyne Daly. But Garrett Sorenson is doing just that, making his Broadway debut in "Master Class," which opened July 7 and runs through September 4.

Sorenson, one of the stars of the limited-run, sold-out production, said Texas Tech University was where he began to dream.

The production captures the story of Maria Callas (Daly) and the master classes she gave at Julliard during 1971 and 1972. Sorenson's character, Tony Candolino, plays the tenor who sings in Callas' master class.

"I fit the role really well because when I was in the Metropolitan Young Opera program, I did a lot of master classes with rich and famous singers, so it's a lot like life," Sorenson said. "It was very natural."

Sorenson called the opportunity to work with Tyne Daly an amazing, dream-like scenario.

"She really epitomizes the leading lady," Sorenson said. "She's very generous and very hard working. She's the first one to rehearsal and last to leave. She's just such a real artist. We've had lots of conversations about literature and poetry, and, of course, she has a billion stories about every famous actor, writer and director you've ever heard of. It's amazing.

On top of all that, she's this amazing cook, he said.

"She's always baking cookies and pies and things like that and bringing them to rehearsals or shows," Sorenson said.

Sorenson said Texas Tech was the place he began to believe a career in such a competitive field was possible and credits John and Mary Gillas, former professors in the School of Music, for his success.

"I had been studying as a baritone for a long time before I started working with John Gillas," he said, "and once he sort of talked me into the fact that I was a tenor and not a

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## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

baritone, and got me going in that direction, things happened really fast for me in an opera way. I went to Santa Fe and then immediately to the Metropolitan Opera as a young artist there.”

John Gillas remembers helping Sorenson make the switch from baritone to tenor. Soon after, Sorenson was performing at the Metropolitan Opera, which is like the Mecca for opera singer, Gillas said.

He had already sung at the Metropolitan Opera, which is like the Mecca for opera singers, Gillas said.

“Garrett is extremely talented and has innate musicality,” Gillas said. “Broadway is another kind of accomplishment. I’m very excited for him.”

While Broadway is something Sorenson never would have turned down, it is not a role he would normally seek out as an opera singer. With opera remaining as his true passion, he seized the opportunity to combine the art with a platform such as Broadway.

“This just sort of came up as a different opportunity. I grabbed it, and I’m really glad I did because it has been a wonderful experience,” he said. “It’s a Broadway play that needed a legitimate opera singer. Good things sort of added to good things, and I ended up making a Broadway debut.”

When not rehearsing and performing, Sorenson is a husband and dad, spending his time exploring the New York with his wife and two sons.

With a daughter on the way, the family has enjoyed the beach, museum and park time in Manhattan this summer.

As for a future on Broadway, Sorenson said a return is certainly a possibility.

Prior to his role in “Master Class” Sorenson said he never viewed himself as someone who would have a place in a Broadway show or play.

“Now I’ve seen otherwise,” he said. “If there was another role or opportunity that really fit me as an actor and a singer, like this did, I would totally jump at the chance.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 4, 2011

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### **Texas Tech Announces August Commencement Schedule**

WHAT: Summer graduation

WHEN: Saturday (Aug. 6)

**9 a.m.** The Colleges of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Mass Communications, Visual & Performing Arts, Honors College and Graduate School.

**1:30 p.m.** Edward E. Whitacre College of Engineering, Rawls College of Business, College of Human Sciences, Graduate School and University College.

WHERE: All ceremonies will take place at the United Spirit Arena at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Indiana Avenue.

EVENT: More than 1,400 students will graduate. Dr. Bernard Mittenmeyer, once the Surgeon General of the United States Army and former executive vice president and interim president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, is the speaker for both commencement ceremonies.

Ceremonies can be viewed online at [www.commencement.ttu.edu/livestream](http://www.commencement.ttu.edu/livestream).

For more about commencement, including information on maps, guest seating, college receptions, parking and hotels, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/commencement/>.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu).

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# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: August 4, 2011

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(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Announces August Commencement**

More than 1,400 students will graduate Saturday (Aug. 6) during two Texas Tech University ceremonies held at the United Spirit Arena.

Ceremonies can be viewed online at <http://streaming.ttu.edu/commencement.htm>.

The Colleges of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Graduate School, Honors College, Mass Communications and Visual & Performing Arts hold their ceremony at 9 a.m.

Commencement exercises for the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, the Rawls College of Business, the College of Human Sciences, Graduate School and University College begin at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Bernard Mitemmeyer, once the Surgeon General of the United States Army and former executive vice president and interim president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, is the speaker for both commencement ceremonies.

#### **Honored students**

Outstanding students, selected based on all-around achievement, will carry banners representing their respective colleges.

The following students are banner bearers: Katherine Sue Schlosser, an agricultural communications major from Plano, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources; Justin Kyle Meeks, an architecture major from El Paso, College of Architecture; Thomas Barton Whittle, an exercise and sport sciences major from Lubbock, College of Arts and Sciences; Elizabeth June Darnell, a multidisciplinary studies major from Amarillo, College of Education; Puja Ghanshyam Nakrani, a human development and family studies major from Austin, College of Human Sciences; Dinah Goodson, a public relations major from Glen Rose, College of Mass Communications; Heather Marie Darnell, a music major from Kingsville, College of Visual & Performing Arts; Kyle Brent Grunwald, an electrical engineering and computer science major from Plano, Whitacre College of Engineering; Shannon Lee Harmon, an accounting major from Lubbock, Rawls College of Business; Jacek Jonca-Jasinski, an experimental psychology doctoral candidate from Wroclaw, Poland, and Oscar J. Solis, a personal financial planning doctoral candidate from Slaton, Graduate School; Valerie A. Seymour, a communication studies major from Lubbock, and Levi J. Schlegel, a university studies major from Tribune, Kan., Honors

College; Andrea Danielle Stafford, a bachelor of university studies major from Austin, University College.

The highest ranking August graduates for each college include:

- College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: Katherine Sue Schlosser, an agricultural communications major from Plano
- College of Architecture: Justin Kyle Meeks, an architecture major from El Paso
- College of Arts & Sciences: Julia Koch, a psychology major from Quedlinburg, Germany; and Garrett Paul Schaller, a political science major from Colorado Springs, Colo.
- College of Education: Elizabeth June Darnell, a multidisciplinary studies major from Amarillo; Gaynelle Herrington Madel, a multidisciplinary studies major from Marble Falls; and Isabel Marie McLemore, a multidisciplinary studies major from Round Rock
- College of Human Sciences: Puja Ghanshyam Nakrani, a human development and family studies major from Austin
- College of Mass Communications: Dinah Goodson, a public relations major from Glen Rose.
- College of Visual & Performing Arts: Heather Marie Darnell, a music major from Kingsville.
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Kyle Brent Grunwald, an electrical engineering and computer science major from Plano
- Honors College: Hien Sarah Le, an environment and the humanities major from Fort Worth; Derron Bernard Jackson, an honors arts and letters major from Frisco; Levi J. Schlegel, a university studies major from Tribune, Kan.; and Valerie A. Seymour, a communication studies major from Lubbock
- Jerry S. Rawls College of Business: Jessica Erin Ward, a management information systems major from Lubbock
- University College: Levi J. Schlegel, a university studies major from Tribune, Kan.

## **Receptions**

For more about commencement, including information on maps, guest seating, college receptions, parking and hotels, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/commencement/>.





TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 5, 2011

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### **Texas Tech named 2012 Fiske 'Best Buy School'**

Texas Tech University was one of just 24 public institutions named a "Best Buy School" in the 2012 Fiske Guide to Colleges.

The recently published guide designates 49 institutions overall as "Best Buy Schools," based on the quality of academic offerings in relation to the cost of attendance.

All of the "Best Buy Schools" fall into the inexpensive or moderate price category, and most have four- or five-star academic ratings.

"Texas Tech has one of the lowest in-state and out-of-state tuitions in the country, making it a great value nationally," said Guy Bailey, Texas Tech president. "We have an outstanding, talented faculty that is dedicated to our mission of producing the very best graduates and securing our positive impact on society."

The Fiske Guide to Colleges also provides an independent perspective on the distinctive personalities of the best and most interesting colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain. More than 300 schools are highlighted based on a broad range of subjects including student body, academics, social life and financial aid.

Edward B. Fiske served for 17 years as education editor of the New York Times, during which time he realized that college-bound students and their families needed better information on which to base their educational choices. He wrote the best-selling annual, the Fiske Guide to Colleges, to help them.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 10, 2011

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### **Parking Permits for Raider Park Now Available for Students**

Texas Tech University Parking Services has teamed up with Raider Park to provide a covered-parking option for students.

Parking permits for Raider Park, the 11-floor covered and security-monitored garage north of Jones AT&T Stadium and west of University Avenue on Fourth Street, are now available for Texas Tech students for the entire academic year (August-May) for \$124. A \$6 fee also will be charged for each gate access key, but that amount will be refunded if the key is returned in good, working condition.

Students who use Raider Park on occasion may still park and pay by the hour.

Raider Park provides more than 1,000 spaces of covered parking, easy access to bus routes and a pedestrian bridge to the Commuter North parking lot. Raider Park is open to students on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and garage permit holders also can park in Commuter West and Commuter North parking lots after 2:30 p.m.

To purchase an ePermit, just log on to your "My Parking Account" at [www.parking.ttu.edu](http://www.parking.ttu.edu)

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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-more-



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 10, 2011

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### **Community Invited to 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Fiesta**

- WHAT: Back to School Fiesta
- WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday (Aug. 13)
- WHERE: United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave.
- EVENT: Open to the Lubbock community, as well as students and their families from surrounding communities, the event offers free school supplies, college resources, free food and entertainment.

Thousands of participants are expected at this year's fiesta, created to introduce children and their families to the educational and professional opportunities offered by higher education and a degree earned through Texas Tech.

The event features a college and community fair, free health screenings, college preparation workshops, parent workshops and more.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 11, 2011

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### **Texas Tech's Sigma Delta Pi Earns National Award**

For the seventh consecutive year, Texas Tech University's chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, a National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, has been named an Honor Chapter for its outstanding activities in 2010-11.

Comfort Pratt, assistant professor in the College of Education and Texas Tech's chapter adviser, was instrumental in earning this national honor, which was awarded to only 11 chapters nationwide.

Each May, all 581 chapters of Sigma Delta Pi are asked to submit an annual report detailing their numerous activities and projects from the academic year. Based on these reports, the National Executive Committee chooses approximately 10 Honor Chapters annually. This recognition is based upon the caliber of chapter projects that reflect the Sigma Delta Pi mission of honoring excellence in the study of the Spanish language, contributing to cultural understanding and upholding the goals of the society.

With its national office at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, Sigma Delta Pi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, the nation's only certifying agency for college and university honor societies.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 11, 2011

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### **Texas Tech Researcher Finds Largest Martian Channels Most Likely Formed by Volcanic Activity**

Since the Mars Viking missions of the '70s, humans have compared the topography of the Red Planet's surface to their home and imagined a world that once contained flowing rivers that carved channels and canyons.

But David Leverington, an associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University, said what we interpret as the largest ancient riverbeds on Mars most likely were created not by water, but by massive, fast-moving, low-viscosity lava flows that ravaged the planet's surface in a way we don't see on Earth.

He said most Mars researchers believe these channels were created by water, and that has buoyed the belief that life on the planet may be or once was possible. But the water theory has several holes in it.

In a new study in *Geomorphology*, which will publish in September 2011, Leverington uses recent high-resolution photographs and mineralogical data to help lay out his theory for why lava is a much more likely culprit for creating the largest class of the outflow channels and canyons, which can stretch up to 1,800 miles.

"This paper highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the two theories that these outflow channels were formed by volcanic or water activity," he said. "Many scientists realize there are issues with aqueous interpretations of these channels. They recognize that if these systems formed by giant subsurface flows of water, there would need to have been extraordinarily high ground permeability, up to a million or more times greater than what we'd expect for the crust of the Earth, just to allow sufficient amounts of water to make it to the outflow locations and erupt to the surface."

While water exists on the planet, most of it appears to be trapped at the poles and at higher latitudes in the form of ice, Leverington said. Most modern theories on the creation of the largest channel systems center on the action of surface floodwaters forced up from enormous aquifers.

Martian water does exist in large quantities, Leverington said, but nowhere near the volume that we have on Earth.

“What we know about Mars’ water is that it’s primarily in the solid state and concentrated at higher latitudes,” he said. “We see large concentrations at the polar icecaps. Various measurements also have been made to infer the presence of water at high latitudes to mid latitudes where there appears to be ice frozen below the surface. An important question has recently arisen: Is there much more water on Mars than this? While there is a considerable volume of water on Mars, it may not be sufficient to have driven the kinds of channel-forming processes many believe happened.”

The Martian outflow channels superficially resemble channels on Earth that formed by floods from giant glacial lakes. However, unlike Earth’s water-formed channels, Leverington said the large Martian canyons do not feature obvious river deposits and don’t terminate in delta-like, sediment-laden mouths, such as at the end of the Mississippi River. Instead, they fade into vast plains composed of volcanic basalt.

“We see abundant evidence for past eruptions of lava at the heads of these large systems, for flows along these systems and for extraordinarily large volumes of lava at the mouths of these systems,” he said. “These characteristics are very similar to what we see at volcanic channels on the moon and on Venus. There’s really no known process for the rapid eruption of large amounts of water from aquifers to form channels that are thousands of miles long. We do have evidence of this happening through past volcanic processes on the moon and Venus.”

These kinds of channel-forming volcanic flows wouldn’t have been like anything ever seen by humans on Earth, Leverington said, though evidence suggests these types of massive lava flows could have occurred very early in our planet’s history.

Though clays and other minerals indicate there would have been water at least in the vapor form during Mars’ early history, other ancient minerals that should have been affected by the later presence of water are mostly in their natural and relatively unaltered state. Many of these pristine minerals are found in the valleys and terminal basins of the largest Martian channels.

“If we look at modern mineralogy of ancient materials exposed on the surface of Mars, we see some evidence that water was present in the vapor or liquid state very early on,” Leverington said. “We also know of many materials that should have been altered by wet conditions quite readily that haven’t been greatly altered, though they have been exposed since quite early in Mars’ history. Some ancient exposed bedrock contains large amounts of iron-rich olivine, and that has not been altered in the past 3.5 billion years. That would suggest that most of Mars history has been extraordinarily dry.

“Surface conditions were likely to have been relatively wet in large regions only in Mars’ earliest development stages. These wet stages pre-date the development of the large outflow channels on Mars.”



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

But that doesn't mean that life on Mars couldn't have developed, he said, though the severe volcanic activity that created the largest outflow channels might have hampered the planet's ability to support complex organisms living on the surface.

"There's still the potential for life to have developed and even flourished in the earliest and wettest stages of Mars' history," Leverington said. "Simple life forms, such as bacteria-like organisms, could have lingered in the subsurface under the dry conditions that ultimately became widespread. But if the large outflow channels formed through volcanic mechanisms rather than substantial water flow, that mainly restricts the environments conducive to the development of life to the earliest stages of that planet's history."

See Leverington at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRQYTN7WmII](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRQYTN7WmII). For a link to the study, click [here](#) or contact John Davis.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 16, 2011

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### **Texas Tech University College of Architecture at El Paso Welcomes New Director**

**WHAT:** Texas Tech University College of Architecture proudly introduces the new director and associate professor of the Architecture Program in El Paso.

**WHO:** Robert A. González

**WHEN:** 5 p.m., Friday (Aug. 19)

**WHERE:** College of Architecture at El Paso,  
El Paso Community College Campus, 9050 Viscount Blvd., Suite A625

González, who specializes in Pan-American and Latin American modern architecture, as well as the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, has taught at Florida International University, Tulane University, University of California, Berkeley and Arizona State University.

In addition to teaching, González is the founding editor of the international journal *Architecture and Urbanism in the Las Américas* and is the author of the recently released "Designing Pan-America: U.S. Architectural Visions for the Western Hemisphere."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 17, 2011

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### **Planning Must Start Now to Bring Rangeland Back from Drought**

More than 90 million acres of Texas rangeland can be rehabilitated.

As a blistering drought continues to plague huge portions of Texas, a Texas Tech University researcher says that even now in the midst of the fight it's time to plan ahead and logically plot a path for pulling more than 90 million acres of valuable rangeland back from the brink.

"We need to manage vegetation, so that when it does rain we can take full advantage of that precipitation," said Ron Sosebee, a 40-year expert on battling back the brutal effects of Texas' droughts and a professor emeritus with Texas Tech's Department of Natural Resources Management.

That means taking full advantage of grass growth when it's most available and defoliation is least detrimental, he said. Increased infiltration of water and decreased run-off erosion are key.

Sosebee advises capturing most, if not all, of the rain when it occurs. Storms here on the plains are typically the cloudburst variety that produce intensive rainfall, in many cases rates of five to 10 inches in as little as 15 minutes. Unless there's good ground cover, as much as 90 percent of that water runs off.

"It's critically important that we maintain adequate vegetative cover to retain as much precipitation as possible where it falls," Sosebee said. "Not taking that precaution opens the door to serious soil erosion."

Another area the land managers should consider is planned deferment of grazing following drought conditions. Year-long grazing might be beneficial for animal production, but it's probably not the best scenario for management in preparation for droughts or for vegetation recovery following a drought, he said.

"Any system that incorporates protection from grazing during the post-reproductive stage of growth to dormancy is beneficial to perennial grasses," Sosebee said.

In Texas, where the drought has been among worst, virtually no part of the state has been untouched. In June, the United States Department of Agriculture designated all 254 counties in Texas natural disaster areas, qualifying them for varying levels of federal relief. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Temple, Texas has some 94 million acres of rangeland currently under drought conditions. That's 55 percent of the total grazing land in the Lone Star state.

Historically, the Texas Tech researcher noted that drought is really the norm in many rangeland areas of Texas. As a result, he suggests that management of those lands be designed to accommodate dry years, rather than holding out for years with average or above average rainfall.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 17, 2011

CONTACT: John Davis, [john.w.davis@ttu.edu](mailto:john.w.davis@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Facing State Budget Cuts, Texas Tech Museum to Change Hours**

Due to state funding reductions, officials at the Museum of Texas Tech University will change some hours of operation.

Beginning Sept. 1, the museum and Moody Planetarium will open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, said David K. Dean, director of museum information services. The museum will no longer feature extended hours until 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Though the museum closed only on major holidays, he said it will now close during Texas Tech's academic holidays, such as the Friday through Monday following Thanksgiving Day, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

"Due to substantial state funding reductions in the next two years, the Museum of Texas Tech University regrettably must take necessary measures to ensure the best public availability of its many services and outreach efforts," Dean said. "Unfortunately, such actions will have some effect on public access to exhibitions, programs and events."

The museum will continue to offer as much access and usage of its facilities and programs to its various communities as possible, he said. However, implementation of this goal requires cutbacks in the number of hours the Museum's facilities are open to the public.

The museum will continue to host its First Friday Art Trail event each month from 6-9 p.m.

Visit The Museum of Texas Tech University's website at [www.museum.ttu.edu](http://www.museum.ttu.edu) for news about hours and public offerings.

**CONTACT: David K. Dean, director of museum information services, The Museum of Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2442 or [david.dean@ttu.edu](mailto:david.dean@ttu.edu)**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 17, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Back to School Fiesta Prepares Families for 2011-2012 School Year**

Local students and families learn about higher education opportunities at Texas Tech while preparing for new school year.

Approximately 5,000 Lubbock area youth and their families are more prepared for the 2011-2012 school year, after attending Texas Tech University's Back to School Fiesta on Saturday.

For an 11<sup>th</sup> year, the event at the United Spirit Arena offered free school supplies, college resources, free food and entertainment for members of the Lubbock community. And it introduced children and their families to the educational and professional opportunities offered by higher education and a degree earned through Texas Tech.

More than 60 organizations and entities participated as partners and hosted tables and booths. Interactive activities were presented by the College of Education and the Museum at Texas Tech, and entertainment was courtesy of Ballet Folklorico. Plus, the smallest of the future Red Raiders enjoyed a special K-5 area with fun provided by the Science Spectrum, the Boy Scouts and YWCA.

"Our goal has always been to provide students and families with the information and resources they need to enrich their lives and begin discussions in their homes about the importance and benefit of higher education, and we feel that we accomplished that goal," said Heather Martinez, associate director of the Office of Community Engagement. "We are looking forward to next year and to continuing the wonderful tradition that is the Back to School Fiesta."

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**Contact: Heather Martinez, associate director, Office of Community Engagement, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-7017 or [heather.martinez@ttu.edu](mailto:heather.martinez@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** Aug. 17, 2011

**CONTACT:** Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**Incoming Texas Tech Law Students to Take Pledge of Professionalism**

- WHAT:** First-year law students take the Professionalism Oath
- WHEN:** 3:40 p.m., Thursday (Aug. 18)
- WHERE:** Lanier Auditorium, Texas Tech School of Law
- EVENT:** The Professionalism Oath will be administered to the entering law school class by Brian Quinn, Chief Justice of the 7<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. Quinn is a 1981 graduate of the Texas Tech University School of Law.

As they begin their study of law, the oath compels students to acknowledge and accept the privileges and responsibilities inherent in becoming a lawyer.

**CONTACT:** Tina Dechausay, communications coordinator, School of Law, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3990 ext. 260, or [tina.dechausay@ttu.edu](mailto:tina.dechausay@ttu.edu).



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 17, 2011

CONTACT: Lori Cortez, [lori.e.cortez@ttu.edu](mailto:lori.e.cortez@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech's College of Education Strives for Quality Online Courses**

The College of Education at Texas Tech University will kick-start its plan to implement Quality Matters, a faculty-led peer review process for online and blended courses, on Aug. 26.

Texas Tech has an institutional subscription to Quality Matters, but its usage has been sporadic across campus. Now, with its heightened focus on distance learning, the College of Education is the first college on campus to apply a strategic approach for using the nationally recognized review process.

With funding provided by Texas Tech's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the first training session, "Applying the Quality Matters Rubric," will be presented by a Quality Matters trainer to 30 College of Education faculty members. Nine will be selected to become certified Quality Matters peer reviews.

All who attend will be able to bring the Quality Matters standards into the courses they create. By building this infrastructure of trained reviewers, the college's online and blended courses can be certified by Quality Matters at a reduced cost, ensuring quality distance learning while trimming the college's budget.

"The College of Education has set a goal of leading the way in distance education. We have two new online or blended Ph.D. programs, and Quality Matters is a very positive step forward," said Mary Fehr, assistant professor of Curriculum and Instructions and associate director of the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center at Texas Tech. "Our faculty will benefit from this opportunity by gaining skills and confidence in creating online courses and students will benefit by becoming successful online learners."

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Judy Simpson, assistant dean, Operations, Outreach, and Public Relations, College of Education, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1998 or [judy.a.simpson@ttu.edu](mailto:judy.a.simpson@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 18, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Personal Financial Planning Doctoral Candidate and Advisor Recognized by Retirement Income Industry Association**

Award-winning paper offers different approach to optimal withdrawal rates.

The Retirement Income Industry Association (RIIA) recently announced the winners of its first Academic Thought Leadership Award.

Duncan Williams, doctoral candidate and graduate instructor in the Personal Financial Planning Division of Texas Tech University, and his advisor, Michael S. Finke, associate professor and coordinator of the division, will receive the award along with the \$5,000 prize at RIIA's Fall Conference & Awards Gala on Oct. 3 in Boston. Bruce E. Wolfe, the managing director of the program's founding sponsor Allianz Global Investors, will present the honor.

In addition, Williams and Finke's award-winning paper, "Determining Optimal Withdrawal Rates: An Economic Approach," will be featured in the fall issue of the Retirement Management Journal (RMJ). Also sponsored by Allianz Global Investors, the RMJ is the first peer-reviewed publication serving financial advisors, practitioners, executives and scholars who are interested in all topics relating to retirement-income planning and management.

"Allianz Global Investors is proud to be leading the industry effort in recognizing thought leadership in the area of retirement from both the academic and practitioner points of view," Wolfe said. "We believe that new research and forward thinking in retirement income and investment strategies will help millions of Americans and their financial advisors prepare for a more secure retirement."

The article documents a different approach to optimal withdrawal rates from retirement accounts. Williams and Finke consider not only the risk of running out of assets in retirement, but also the loss that occurs when retirees spend too little money and die with larger bequests than they intended. "If a retiree can tolerate a certain amount of risk, then it may make more sense to spend at a higher rate than commonly assumed," Finke said.

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**CONTACT: Michael Finke, associate professor, Division of Personal Financial Planning, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-5050 or [michael.finke@ttu.edu](mailto:michael.finke@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 19, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center Named One of PopSci's 25 Most Awesome College Labs 2011**

For the second year in a row, Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering (WISE) is listed in Popular Science magazine as one of the best places to pursue science in the United States.

The article invites readers to forget stuffy lecture halls and humming fluorescent lights, and check out "You Call This College? The 25 Coolest Labs in the Country." WISE appears as image 8 of 25 in the photo gallery, and depicts atmospheric science students as they observe Texas Tech's wind cannon hurling planks at a wall to measure hurricane damage. Information gathered here has led to building designs that will hold up better in hurricanes or tornadoes.

The article also credits WISE for having the only complete record of the intensity of Hurricane Katrina's eye at landfall and the creation of the Enhanced Fujita Scale for measuring the force of tornadoes.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: John Schroeder, associate professor of atmospheric sciences and director of the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center (WISE), (806) 742-3476, or [john.schroeder@ttu.edu](mailto:john.schroeder@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 22, 2011

CONTACT: Lori Cortez, [lori.e.cortez@ttu.edu](mailto:lori.e.cortez@ttu.edu)

(806) 742-2136

### **Education Professor Receives Grant to Implement Online Math Tutorial**

A Texas Tech University instructional technology professor received a \$112,762 grant from the Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) to implement an adaptive web-based tutorial aimed at improving K-12 students' abilities in mathematics problem solving.

Fethi A. Inan, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership, will use the grant to incorporate his previously designed tutorial, [aps4math.com](http://aps4math.com), into high school and junior high school math classrooms. His work focuses on increasing students' math state test scores and algebra word problem-solving skills.

Inan's proposal "Adaptive Problem Solving for Mathematics: Assessing and Adapting to Students While They are Learning" discusses how the project will directly involve students from public schools in West Texas. The majority of the participating students are classified as "at risk" and are not college-ready.

Inan said the key to the tutorial is its adaptive feedback characteristic.

"While students solve problems, their knowledge and skills will be continuously monitored and the content presentation, assessment items, feedback and scaffolds will be adapted and personalized," he said.

One of the major goals for the tutorial is to help teachers support learning, engagement and participation for students with diverse backgrounds.

Along with the tutorial, a research team will provide teachers with supplementary resources such as lesson plan examples and professional development materials for integration into their curriculum. With detailed progress reports, teachers can pinpoint the specific skills a student struggles with, and make the necessary adjustments.

Researchers will work with one school this fall to finalize the project. In the spring of 2012, the finalized tutorial will be implemented in three schools.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Fethi A. Inan, assistant professor, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1997 or [Fethi.inan@ttu.edu](mailto:Fethi.inan@ttu.edu).**

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 22, 2011

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Expert: Libya “End Game” Could Take Time**

The split city and the differences between rebels and regime could draw out the process.

Despite widespread jubilation, the “end game” of the Libyan rebels’ revolt could definitely last quite some time, said a Texas Tech University expert in African diplomacy.

Tibor Nagy (pronounced Nahzh), Texas Tech’s vice provost for international affairs and former ambassador to both Ethiopia and Guinea, says Tripoli is really two cities – a poor, industrial eastern part which is fervently anti-Moammar Gadhafi, and a more prosperous western side with lots of government workers and business leaders who have been enriched by the current regime.

“At best, I think we’re looking at something similar to the Soviet siege of Berlin at the end of World War II; at worst it could be Stalingrad,” Nagy said. “The rebels have sky-high morale and enthusiasm, but lack cohesion and strict command and control tactics. The regime forces are under siege, but they have superior discipline and firepower, and have nowhere to go – and probably fear for their lives if they lose (especially the Sub-Saharan African mercenaries).”

Nagy also said that urban fighting with indistinguishable troops also will hinder NATO’s ability to hit selective targets from the air.

“So while I’m optimistic about the final outcome, I fear it may be more prolonged than most folks want or expect,” he said.

Another significant factor, Nagy said, will be the whereabouts of Gadhafi – if he is killed or captured or flees Libya, that would be it. If he remains in hiding in the country, that would likely prolong matters.

**Nagy can be reached at (806) 742-2218 or at [tibor.nagy@ttu.edu](mailto:tibor.nagy@ttu.edu).**

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 23, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Experts Available as Hurricane Irene Targets East Coast**

Wind scientists and economist discuss damage and safety.

As emergency officials from Florida to the Carolinas keep watch on Irene Tuesday as the first hurricane to seriously threaten the U.S. in three years, the Texas Tech University Hurricane Research Team (TTUHRT) has pre-deployed to Monroe, La., in preparation for possible landfall operations along the East Coast.

Forecasters said the hurricane could grow to a Category 4 storm with winds of more than 131 mph before it is predicted to come ashore this weekend on the U.S. mainland. Texas Tech has a number of researchers with extensive experience researching hurricanes such as Rita, Katrina and Ike, and can speak as experts about various aspects of these devastating storms.

John L. Schroeder (SHRAY-dur), associate professor of atmospheric science, visited affected areas ahead of both hurricanes Rita and Katrina to deploy instrumented towers that gather high-resolution storm data at a time when most conventional observation systems fail. Schroeder can offer insight into how hurricanes develop, move and react to various meteorological elements. He is an expert on hurricane winds and has been actively intercepting hurricanes since 1998. **Schroeder is traveling with TTUHRT, but can be contacted at [john.schroeder@ttu.edu](mailto:john.schroeder@ttu.edu), weather permitting.**

Bradley Ewing, professor of operations management in the Rawls College of Business, has studied the economic impact of hurricanes and tornadoes for more than 12 years. He can speak to the impact of hurricanes and tornadoes in cities such as Oklahoma City, Corpus Christi, Wilmington, N.C., Miami, and Nashville, Tenn. **Ewing can be reached at (806) 742-3939 or [bradley.ewing@ttu.edu](mailto:bradley.ewing@ttu.edu).**

Daan Liang, assistant professor of construction engineering technology, investigated building damages caused by Hurricane Katrina using satellite images and aerial photos along with ground survey results. Liang has studied how the construction of buildings affects their vulnerability against severe windstorms with various probability models. Recently, his research is focused on the advancement of remote sensing technology in documenting and assessing wind damages to residential structures. **Liang can be reached at (806) 742-3538 or [daan.liang@ttu.edu](mailto:daan.liang@ttu.edu).**

Larry Tanner, research associate, completed a six-month investigation working with the FEMA mitigation assessment team on the wind damage to residential structures from Hurricane Ike in Texas and Louisiana. He was also a member of the FEMA mitigation assessment team that

studied Hurricane Katrina. He led a team that recorded wind and water damage along the coastline in Louisiana and Mississippi. Much of the damage done by Katrina, he said, resulted from structures being built below the base flood elevation – or the elevation that flood waters will rise to during a 100-year storm event (meaning the storm only has a 1 percent chance of happening in a year). **Tanner can be reached at (806) 742-3476 ext. 336, or [larry.tanner@ttu.edu](mailto:larry.tanner@ttu.edu).**

Ernst Kiesling, professor of civil engineering and executive director of the National Storm Shelter Association, recommends that homeowners who live above the flood plane in hurricane-prone areas buy a storm shelter for their home. As was seen in Houston preceding Hurricane Rita, evacuations are stressful and expensive. They often put immense strain on traffic corridors, leading to traffic jams and – in the case of Houston – fatalities. By utilizing in-home shelters, some families who are not required to evacuate can remain where they are and ease the traffic flow. However, Kiesling urges buyers to look for a seal of the National Storm Shelter Association when they buy a safe room for their home, because not all shelters are verified to be fully compliant with current standards for storm shelters and to provide full protection from extreme winds. Kiesling has more than 30 years of experience in the design, standards-writing and quality control of storm shelters. **He can be reached at (806) 742-3476, ext. 335 or [ernst.kiesling@ttu.edu](mailto:ernst.kiesling@ttu.edu).**





TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement  
**Women's Studies Programs**

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 24, 2011

CONTACT: Tricia Earl, [patricia.a.earl@ttu.edu](mailto:patricia.a.earl@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-4335

### **Women's Studies Program to Celebrate Women's Equality Day**

The Texas Tech University Women's Studies Program will host a Women's Equality Day Forum at noon Aug. 26 in room 153 of the Teaching and Learning Technology Center of the Texas Tech University Library.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality, said Patricia Earl, coordinator for the Women's Studies Program. Every president has published a proclamation for Women's Equality Day since 1971 when Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY) first introduced legislation in Congress.

"The forum will examine cultural and social construction of gender by studying the history, experience and contributions of women to society," Earl said. "Discussions will include the historical and present day political arguments for and against the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and where it stands today."

The event is free and open to the public. For off campus visitors, enter through the main campus entrance at University Avenue and Broadway and ask for directions and visitor parking location instructions at the traffic kiosk station.

The Women's Studies Program is a part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Patricia Earl, coordinator, Women's Studies Program, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-4335, or [patricia.a.earl@ttu.edu](mailto:patricia.a.earl@ttu.edu)**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 25, 2011

CONTACT: Chris Cook, [chris.cook@ttu.edu](mailto:chris.cook@ttu.edu)  
806-742-2136

**President's Welcome Picnic**

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday (Aug. 26)

WHERE: North Plaza of the Student Union Building

EVENT: Texas Tech University President Guy Bailey and other university administrators will serve free hot dogs and refreshments to help celebrate the beginning of the fall semester.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Chris Cook, managing director, Office of Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2136 or [chris.cook@ttu.edu](mailto:chris.cook@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 26, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Hurricane Research Team Waits for Irene**

Texas Tech Hurricane Research Team deploys StickNets on Carolina's Outer Banks

As the East Coast braces for a weekend of violent weather, Hurricane Irene's outer bands are already lashing the shoreline, from the Carolinas to Massachusetts. The Texas Tech Hurricane Research Team is there too, braving the storm and deploying StickNet probes on the Outer Banks.

John Schroeder, associate professor of atmospheric science, is a charter member and director of the team. He is an expert on how hurricanes interact with man's built environment at landfall and has been actively intercepting hurricanes since 1998.

"Our hurricane research team is dedicated to mitigating the effects of landfalling hurricanes on life and property," Schroeder said. "To that end, we deploy instrumented towers that gather high-resolution storm data at a time when most conventional observation systems fail."

Schroeder explained that once the instruments are set, the team members head for safety until the storm passes.

"We try to place everything and get out of the way before the wind gets much above tropical storm force (39 mph). Any later, and things start falling, like tree branches, power lines and other debris, which increases the danger and limits the team's mobility."

Follow the team through status updates and pictures on [Facebook](#).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter [@TexasTechMedia](#).

**CONTACT: John Schroeder, associate professor of atmospheric sciences and director of the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center (WISE), Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3476 or [john.schroeder@ttu.edu](mailto:john.schroeder@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 29, 2011

CONTACT: Tina Dechausay, [tina.dechausay@ttu.edu](mailto:tina.dechausay@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-3990 ext. 260

### **Success of Texas Tech Law Advocacy Programs Featured in preLaw Magazine**

Texas Tech University School of Law's Advocacy Programs is featured in an article in *preLaw's* Back to School 2011 issue.

The article, "The Moot Court Stars," takes a look at the best moot court programs in the nation and includes comments from the directors of those top programs, including Robert Sherwin, Texas Tech law school's director of advocacy programs.

Rankings of the top law school advocacy programs according to the Blakely Advocacy Institute and Brian Koppen are also displayed with Texas Tech appearing as the No. 2 ranked program in both listings.

Some of the many achievements of the law school's advocacy teams in 2010-11 included one international championship, three national championships, five regional championships, and five Best Advocate awards at national competitions, including the National Best Advocate (Alexis Butler) at the National Moot Court Competition.

Aside from the notoriety these championships bring to a law school and the practical lawyering skills that students learn by competing, the opportunity to participate in advocacy competitions can also enhance one's law school experience, Sherwin said in the article.

"I strongly believe that going to a law school that can provide its students with a rich advocacy experience can make the difference between looking back at law school as something that's enjoyable and looking back at it as something that's merely survived," he said.

The article was written by Jack Crittenden and can be found at [http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/prelaw\\_backtoschool-2011/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/prelaw_backtoschool-2011/).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu).

**Contact: Tina Dechausay, communications coordinator, Texas Tech School of Law,** (806) 742-3990 ext. 260, or [tina.dechausay@ttu.edu](mailto:tina.dechausay@ttu.edu).



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 30, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Engineering Students Put Building Blox to the Test**

Texas Tech alumnus gives new life to recycled phone books and lottery tickets.

It looks similar to an ordinary cinder block, but it is only a third of the weight and just as strong. Plus, it does not crack like concrete or splinter like wood, because it is made from recycled newspapers, phone books and lottery tickets.

Zach Rabon, a 1999 graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in ecology and conservation of natural resources, believes he has come up with the next big thing in building materials. He recently returned to his alma mater to gather the evidence to back up his claim.

Rabon is president and founder of MasonGreenstar, an alternative building company that produces a patented product called Greenstar Blox™. The mixture is made from recycled short-fiber cellulose, cement, water, and a proprietary blend of additives; and poured into molds and dried in the sun. The finished Greenstar Blox™ are jagged and porous, but when stacked and adhered with the mortar, the walls act as insulation that is energy efficient, fire resistant and remarkably strong. Strong enough to absorb the force of a speeding bullet, Rabon said.

The mixture is not just limited to the shape Greenstar Blox™ take; the company is also exploring markets for panel systems, insulated concrete forms, as well as various Department of Transportation applications.

"The mortar and plaster are made out of the same material, so it becomes a solid structure," he said. "Everything expands and contracts through the seasons at the same rate."

Rabon used Greenstar Blox™ in about a dozen construction projects, including his Hill Country home near the production facility in Mason. His latest structure is a home under construction in South Lubbock, one of the first major municipalities to allow Greenstar Blox™ construction in city limits.

"We do have a lot of different things the city has required of us, such as the rods from the foundation to the top of the walls for added reinforcement," Rabon said. "The material is

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very forgiving. We just take a paddle bit and punch a hole through the Greenstar Blox™, threading the block up and over.”

Builders may not yet use Greenstar Blox™ in urban areas with stricter building codes, because this type of material lacks approval from the International Code Council. However, MasonGreenstar’s goal is to change that in the next year or two, and the necessary tests are already underway. Grant funding has enabled Texas Tech engineering students to perform thermal and durability tests on the Greenstar Blox™ that will determine strength, insulation properties, water permeability, wind resistance, load and more.

“We are all pretty much Texas Tech graduates,” Rabon said speaking of the company’s chief technology officer, Josh Hargrove, and his father, Kent Rabon, who also works for the company. “We’re honored that Tech wanted to get involved and become an actual partner in our company.”

Boback Parsaei and Alan Cox are two of the graduate students conducting the tests.

“Working with such a new material, I feel like I’m on the brink of doing something futuristic and being involved in something big,” Parsaei said. “This information will help MasonGreenstar fine tune the mixture, so they can produce the best possible formula.”

Much of Parsaei’s research is done in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment, which gives them the ability to test the Blox to their full potential.

“My favorite part is breaking them,” said Cox, who is testing the product’s core strength and hardness according to ASTM (formerly known as American Society for Testing and Materials) standards. “There is a lot of variability with any mix design. So we want to be very confident that this product, under these design conditions, will work every time.”

Once the codes are written, Rabon predicts the possibilities for this new material are endless.

See the Lubbock construction site and learn more about the testing process here:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8u20OwNNtY>

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Douglas A. Smith, associate professor and associate chair, Civil Engineering, Whitacre College of Engineering, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3476, or [doug.smith@ttu.edu](mailto:doug.smith@ttu.edu); Zach Rabon, owner, MasonGreenstar, (877) 647-2569, or [zach@masongreenstar.com](mailto:zach@masongreenstar.com).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Aug. 30, 2011

CONTACT: Melanie Hess, [melanie.hess@ttu.edu](mailto:melanie.hess@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Honors College Announces New Health Track Designed to Help Students Stand out**

With ever-changing expectations of professional health programs, creating a competitive and unique application requires a demonstration of both knowledge and experience.

Students must constantly seek new ways to impress admissions boards and remain up to date on the newest qualifications.

In order to serve this need, Texas Tech University's Honors College, in collaboration with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center (HSC), recently announced its new Health and Humanities track that will help students stand out among their peers.

A track of the Honors Arts and Letters (HAL) major, this new pre-professional health curriculum design was created as part of a close cooperation between Texas Tech School of Medicine physician, Dr. Steven Berk and the Honors College faculty.

"The Honors College Health and Humanities track is designed to give each student the best possible background and educational experiences prior to enrolling in medical school," Berk said.

The track will have a strong interdisciplinary approach to both science and humanities.

"While basic science is still a backbone of pre-med preparation, other courses, such as ethics, history of medicine, psychology and anthropology are also extremely valuable in preparing a student to be a well-rounded and compassionate physician," Berk said.

"Students in the Honors Health and Humanities track will be very well prepared for the rigorous and demanding curriculum of medical school."

Steve Fritz, dean of the Honors College, said students will see an immediate benefit from this new, value-added program.

As part of this track, students will have the opportunity to participate in courses taught by HSC faculty, including a first-year medical school class and seminar taught by an HSC vice president.

In addition to early acceptance to medical school and direct access to state-of-the-art HSC labs, students who enroll will also gain volunteer experience in community clinics and hands-on undergraduate research experience with HSC faculty members.

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Sierra Stull, A senior HAL major, said the this program has allowed her to prepare not only for a career in science, but for the world today.

“Although I am very committed to all things related to science, I also wanted a very enriching education during college,” Stull said. “This program allowed me to take the science classes I needed and wanted, but also added variety to my schedule each semester.”

Stull said the HAL program allows students to focus on the sciences, but also have the well-roundedness that so many medical schools look for these days.

“You aren’t just learning biology and chemistry, but you’re learning art, history, language and culture,” Stull said. “It truly made my college experience unique, and I encourage pre-med students to take a look at this program.”

Former Honors College student and current medical student Charmaine Aguas said being part of the Honors College program provided her opportunities to broaden her learning as an undergraduate.

“Both campuses look forward to providing new opportunities for some of our most talented students,” Fritz said.

With strong knowledge of the Howard Hughes/Association of American Medical Colleges new guidelines for pre-medical preparation, the new Health and Humanities track will produce well-rounded and well-prepared graduates.

“Faculty at the HSC are very enthusiastic about working with pre-med and pre-professional health students as teachers, counselors and role model practitioners,” Berk said. “Early on in a student’s training we will have the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of teamwork, accountability, work ethic and compassion.”

Students interested in learning more about this new program should contact the Honors College at (806)742-1828 or visit the website at [www.honr.ttu.edu](http://www.honr.ttu.edu).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Cheryl Carroll, director of admissions, Honors College, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1828 or [cheryl.carroll@ttu.edu](mailto:cheryl.carroll@ttu.edu)**



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# Advisory

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 31, 2011

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Hosts Panel on 9/11 Ten-Year Anniversary**

- WHAT:** "9/11 Ten Years Later: Three Distinct Perspectives" features three former U.S. officials discussing the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil.
- WHEN:** 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sept. 6
- WHERE:** International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana Ave.
- EVENT:** Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, former CIA senior executive Eric Pound and former U.S. ambassador Tibor P. Nagy Jr. will talk about where the country is 10 years after the 9/11 attacks.

Now a political science instructor at Texas Tech University, Gonzales was appointed the 80th Attorney General of the United States. He became the first Hispanic to lead the nation's largest law enforcement agency. Former White House Counsel to President George W. Bush, Gonzales played a vital role in the administration's fight in the war on terror and addressing the changing role of the Department of Justice post-9/11. A graduate of Rice University, he received his law degree from Harvard Law School.

Pound joined the CIA in 1976 and retired in September 2009 after more than 33 years, with the rank of SIS-5 in the Senior Intelligence Service. He served 18 years abroad in Europe and Africa in eight tours of duty, five of them in command. His headquarters assignments included two major component commands and a tour as a component deputy with line authority over special operations personnel and assets.

Nagy is vice provost for International Affairs at Texas Tech. During the 2002 academic year he was the Department of State's Diplomat in Residence at the University of Oklahoma. Previously he was the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia from 1999-2002, and Ambassador to Guinea from 1996-99. Nagy joined the Foreign Service in 1978 as a management analyst in the Bureau of Personnel.

**CONTACT: Jane Bell, director, International Cultural Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-297 ext. 232, or [jane.bell@ttu.edu](mailto:jane.bell@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 31, 2011

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
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### **Texas Tech Library Now Open 24/5**

Red Raiders will see new and improved hours at the Texas Tech University Library after Labor Day.

The library will be open around the clock beginning 10 a.m. Sundays until 11 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Saturdays.

Library patrons entering the library after 10 p.m. must enter through the east doors and show their university ID.

“Even though the Library already has more open hours than any building on campus, we want to accommodate the increased demand from our student population and help them to achieve their academic goals,” said Donald Dyal, dean of Libraries.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu) and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

**CONTACT: Julie Toland Barnett, assistant director, Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University Libraries, (806) 742-2238 ext. 260, or [julie.toland@ttu.edu](mailto:julie.toland@ttu.edu).**